

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-10 PM-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 L-03 SCEM-02

COME-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 FMC-84 DRC-01 SCI-06 /089 W

----- 108791

R 281110Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 361

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY NCW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, CE

SUBJ: UPDATE ON BUNKERING LIMITATIONS IN COLOMBO

REF A. STATE 242086 B. STATE 234084 C. COLOMBO 3071 (NOTAL)

1. TO DATE ALL VESSELS REQUESTING FUEL IN COLOMBO HAVE RECEIVED AT LEAST MINIMUM AMOUNT NEEDED TO REACH OTHER PORTS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. GSL'S PLANS TO RESERVE BUNKERING FACILITIES FOR SHIPS UPLOADING OR DOWNLOADING IN COLOMBO HAVE NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED. FUEL ALLOCATION PROCEDURES ARE HAPHAZARD AND SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FROM VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND TO MARITIME AGENTS' INFORMAL TIES WITH STATE-OWNED CEYLON PETROLEUM CORP. NO EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, OF SYSTEMATIC DISCRIMINATION.

2. PETROP UM IMPORTS AND RESIDUAL STOCKS OF UNREFINED PETROLEUM APPEAR ADEQUATE FOR CURRENT ANTICIPATED NEEDS (SRI LANKA DEPENDS ON ITS ONE REFINERY
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FOR VIRTUALLY ALL FUEL USES), BUT STOCKS OF REFINED

PETROLEUM HAVE DROPPED SHARPLY SINCE DEC 1 AND
ARE ALMOST GONE. DOMESTIC REFINING CAPACITY OF
2000 TONS DAILY IS, HOWEVER, ONLY ONE-THIRD OF
CURRENT INFLATED DEMANDS FOR FUEL, NOW CONSISTING
MAINLY OF INCREASED BUNKERING REQUIREMENTS. HIGH
GRADE REFINED FUEL FOR BOTH SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT IS
VERY SCARCE. CONCERN ABOUT INADEQUATE REFINERY
MAINTENANCE DURING CURRENT CRISIS IS BEING EXPRESSED
PRIVATELY BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PETROLEUM
ENGINEERS UNLESS PRESSURE EASED, BREAKDOWN OF
REFINING EQUIPMENT IS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE BEFORE MARCH.

3. BUNKERING FOR LONG VOYAGES (DURBAN, PERTH, 035)
NOW UNAVAILABLE, AND ALL VERBAL PLEDGES OF FUEL
SUPPLIES GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES SUBJECT TO AMEND-
MENT AT ANY TIME. MARITIME INTERESTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO
ANTICIPATE OBTAINING MORE THAN 250 TONS PER SHIP
DURING PRESENT CRISIS.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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